

Employers Can Help Guide Value-driven Health Care by Taking a Brief Survey

A new [survey](#) of employers being conducted by the Partnership for Value-Driven Health Care will help measure the impact of the Value-Driven Health Care (VHC) initiative and assist in guiding its next phase. "The results of the Partnership's survey will help in developing realistic, concise action steps that employers can use to advance the agenda of the Four Cornerstones," said the National Business Coalition on Health President, Andrew Webber.

The deadline for [completing the brief survey](#) is midnight on **Wednesday, October 10**. Responses will be analyzed by the Partnership and kept strictly anonymous and confidential. Also, a summary of the completed survey will be provided to participants who provide an e-mail address.

This Partnership is an alliance of 15 national employer associations working to advance VHC's Four Cornerstones.



Modernizing Health Information Technology

The American Health Information Community (AHIC) is recommending a series of steps that aim to modernize the country's public health infrastructure. During its September meeting, AHIC called for more harmonization of laboratory systems and an integrated approach to reporting veterinary, environmental, public health, and other lab results that would help in responding to a public health emergency. The workgroup also said supply chains for medical supplies and countermeasures such as vaccines should share more data with one another and with national authorities during emergencies.

Secretary Leavitt, AHIC's chairman, called the recommendations, "very big thinking" and said some would take acts of Congress to accomplish. But he applauded them and said HHS would start developing budgets and timetables to get the modernization under way.

[Learn more](#) about AHIC.

HHS Announces Plan to Share Medicare Physician Performance Measures

Speaking at the first annual AHRQ meeting Friday, Secretary Leavitt announced a plan to make Medicare performance measurement information available at the community level.

CMS will use Medicare data to generate the results, and will make the information available on a local level to the forthcoming Chartered Value Exchanges. In turn, CVEs will act as catalysts to bring together public- and private-sector physician measurement results to stimulate quality improvement and consumer choice in their communities. [Learn more](#) about the announcement or [read the Secretary's remarks](#).

Personalized Health Care: HHS Sees Potential for More Individualized Treatment

HHS Secretary Mike Leavitt recently issued a report focusing on the future of personalized health care, which includes a long-range plan for achieving much more individualized treatment for patients. The report recommends that work in biomedical science, health information technology, and health care delivery should be aligned to produce "the right treatment, at the right time" for each individual patient.

"The potential is huge – for protecting health, for preventing and pre-empting disease and for personalizing treatment according to each person's unique biology," Secretary Leavitt said at a September conference on personalized medicine.



The report describes personalized health care as "a system in which doctors, pharmacists and other health care providers customize treatment and management plans for individuals." [Read more](#)

Isn't It Time? Declare Your Support.

[Sign up today](#) to be a part of the Value-Driven Health Care movement.



"Every American should have access to a full range of information about the quality and cost of their health care options."

Secretary Michael O. Leavitt